

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application of:

Applicant(s): Hara et al.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Conf. No.: Unassigned

Filed: October 27, 2003

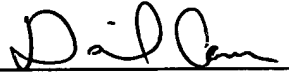
For: MAGNETIC DISK APPARATUS...

Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

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Express Mail No.: EV 032736975 US

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

Copy of PCT Search Report is also enclosed.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By: 

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Customer Number 24978

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		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
		03-016068	Jan. 24, 1991	Japan			Abs.	
		8-195044	Jul. 30, 1996	Japan			Abs.	
		9-180355	Jul. 11, 1997	Japan			Abs.	
		11-007738	Jan. 12, 1999	Japan			Abs.	
		11-203808	Jul. 30, 1999	Japan			Abs.	
		0 969 465	Jan. 5, 2000	EPO				
		WO 02/091381	Nov. 14, 2002	PCT			Abs.	

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.